

2013 Needs Assessment for Cherokee County

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Accomplishments

1. Saving Teens At-Risk(S.T.A.R.) was funded by the Alabama Department of Youth Services and is supported by the local Juvenile Court and The Cherokee County Board of Education
2. Cherokee County Family Resource Center was funded by At-Risk money to provide programs for Teen Parents and Shaken Baby Syndrome
3. 4th Annual Cherokee County Family Resource Center 5k-10k race for Health Awareness planned for October, 2013.
4. Early Childhood Fair held by the CPC's Early Care and Childhood Committee.
5. Continue Pre-K site in Cedar Bluff, and Gaylesville
6. The Cherokee County Board of Education and Gadsden State Community College hosted the 4th Annual "CHOICE" student conference.
7. Sarrell Dental hosted free dental screenings to every school and SO COOL summer program for At-Risk students.
8. A very successful SADD Conference was presented.
9. SO COOL, was up to 200 students in attendance with the City of Centre providing free facilities.
10. Nettie King Brown Clearinghouse provided Christmas for over 400 children.
11. Gadsden State Community College Nursing students provided services at Early Childhood Children's Fair.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

Cherokee County Children will be healthy

| Existing resources available to help meet this need include: | Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include: |
|--|---|
| Sarrell Dental (Dental Services, free dental screenings) C.E.D. Mental Health Family Resource Center Cherokee County Health Department Alcohol/Substance Abuse Council WIC ALL KIDS Centre Fall Festival-Kid's Fun Run for health Rotary Club-So Cool program for At-Risk kids providing lunch and activities. Early Childhood Fair Weiss Lake Women's Club-brown bag weekend food for children. Family Resource Center refers to different agencies that provides services for children/families Different churches provide food 3 days a week. | More housing needed for our homeless families Additional food banks for all parts of Cherokee County. Summer long food program for children. Transportation to medical services. |

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Member agencies of the CPC will set up information booths at "Meet Your Teacher Night" at each of the Cherokee County Schools.
2. The Cherokee County CPC will work closely with the Child Nutrition Director of the school system regarding healthy meals for school children throughout the school and summer months.
3. Contact agencies to participate in the Early Child Fair in order for the community to know of all the services available for the children.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Increase High School Graduation Rate

| Existing resources available to help meet this need include: | Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include: |
|---|---|
| Cherokee County Board of Education CHOICE Program S.T.A.R. Program SADD(Student-Against-Destructive-Decision) Program workshop | Increase Teacher Units Graduation Coaches at each school Increase in A-Risk funding Determine why the decline in High School Graduation Rate at certain schools |

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. The Cherokee County CPC will work with the school to provide more opportunities for students to be involved in school and civic activities using volunteer's from the CPC and community.
2. Involve the media with ongoing programs.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Children will be Safe and Free from Abuse

| Existing resources available to help meet this need include: | Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include: |
|---|--|
| <p>Cherokee County DHR Quality Assurance committee works to reduce repeat maltreatment.</p> <p>Cherokee County Children's Advocacy Center provides counseling for children that are victim's of abuse.</p> <p>Cherokee County Board of Education has counselors in each school.</p> <p>Cherokee County Family Resource Center provides a parenting program for teen parent regarding "Shaken Baby Syndrome."</p> <p>Early Childhood Fair</p> <p>Cherokee County has two new counselors that help children deal with issues.</p> | <p>Cherokee County needs to be aware of the dangers of domestic violence and it's effects on the family.</p> |

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Continue to give PRIDE Survey to students in grades 6-12, as well as to faculty and parents when possible.
2. The CPC will assist the Children's Advocacy Center by providing volunteers during Child Abuse Awareness month, April 2014.